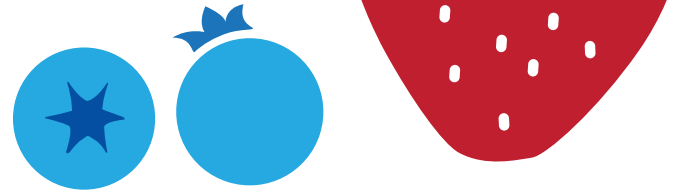


# THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM



## 1. What is the School Breakfast Program?

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions. The SBP started in 1966 as a pilot project, and was made a permanent entitlement program by Congress in 1975.

Participation in the SBP has slowly but steadily grown over the years: 1970: 0.5 million children; 1980: 3.6 million children; 1990: 4.0 million children; 2000: 7.5 million children; 2010: 11.67 million children; and 2016: 14.57 million children.

## 2. Who administers the SBP?

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers the Program at the Federal level. At the State level, the Program is administered by State agencies, which operate the SBP through agreements with local school food authorities. State agency contact information is available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/school-meals-contacts>.

## 3. How does the Program work?

The SBP is generally operated by public or non-profit private schools of high school grade or below. Public or non-profit private residential child care institutions may also participate in the SBP, and charter schools may participate in the SBP as public schools. School districts and independent schools that choose to participate in the Program must serve breakfast meals meeting Federal nutrition requirements, and offer free or reduced

price breakfasts to all eligible children. In exchange, participating institutions receive cash subsidies from the USDA for each reimbursable meal served.

## 4. What are the nutrition requirements for school breakfasts?

All school breakfasts must meet Federal nutrition requirements, though decisions about the specific foods to serve and how the foods are prepared are made by local school food authorities. Information about the SBP meal pattern requirements may be found on the School Meals website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards-school-meals>.

## 5. How can children qualify for free or reduced price school breakfast?

Children may be determined “categorically eligible” for free meals through participation in certain Federal Assistance Programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or based on their status as a homeless, migrant, runaway, or foster child. Children enrolled in a federally-funded Head Start Program, or a comparable State-funded pre-kindergarten program, are also categorically eligible for free meals. Children can also qualify for free or reduced price school meals based on household income and family size. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty level are eligible for free meals.

Those with incomes between 130 and 185 percent of the Federal poverty level are eligible for reduced price meals. Schools may not charge children more than 30 cents for a reduced price breakfast. To see the current Income Eligibility Guidelines, please visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines>.

### 6. What are the current reimbursement rates for participating schools?

School food authorities are reimbursed for meals based on children’s free, reduced price, or paid eligibility status. For current SBP reimbursement rates, please see: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/rates-reimbursement>. Schools serving a higher percentage of low-income students (at least 40 percent of children receive free or reduced price lunch) are considered “severe need” schools and are eligible for a higher reimbursement rate. Schools in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico also receive a higher reimbursement rate, due to the higher cost of food in those areas.

### 7. What breakfast service options are available to schools?

In addition to the traditional, cafeteria-based breakfast model, schools may also consider an alternative breakfast model. For example, “Breakfast in the Classroom” involves serving the breakfast meal to children during a morning class, often while the teacher is taking attendance or giving classroom announcements. Schools operating “Grab & Go Breakfast” serve children a breakfast “to go,” often in a paper or plastic bag, before school or during a morning break. To learn more about these and other breakfast service options, please see the School Breakfast Program webpage: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sbp/school-breakfast-program-sbp>.

### 8. What additional support do schools receive from FNS?

Through its Team Nutrition initiative, FNS provides training and technical assistance to school nutrition professionals to enable them to prepare and serve nutritious meals that meet the Program meal pattern requirements and appeal to children. The Team Nutrition Resource Library has web-based resources available to help children and school nutrition professionals understand the link between diet and health. State and local agencies may request free printed copies of certain Team Nutrition materials. To learn more, visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition>.

### 9. Where can I go to learn more about the SBP?

For more information about the SBP, please contact the State agency responsible for the administration of the Program in your State: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/school-meals-contacts>.





# THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

## 1. What is the National School Lunch Program?

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or no-cost lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, signed into law by President Harry Truman in 1946.

About 7.1 million children participated in the NSLP in its first year. Since then, the Program has reached millions of children nationwide: 1970: 22.4 million children; 1980: 26.6 million children; 1990: 21.1 million children; 2000: 27.3 million children; 2010: 31.8 million children; and 2016: 30.4 million children.

## 2. Who administers the NSLP?

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers the Program at the Federal level. At the State level, the NSLP is administered by State agencies, which operate the Program through agreements with school food authorities. State agency contact information is available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/school-meals-contacts>.

## 3. How does the Program work?

The NSLP is generally operated by public or non-profit private schools of high school grade or below. Public or non-profit private residential child care institutions may also participate in the NSLP, and charter schools may

participate in the NSLP as public schools. Participating school districts and independent schools receive cash subsidies and USDA Foods for each reimbursable meal they serve. In exchange, NSLP institutions must serve lunches that meet Federal meal pattern requirements and offer the lunches at a free or reduced price to eligible children. School food authorities can also be reimbursed for snacks served to children who participate in an approved afterschool program including an educational or enrichment activity.”

## 4. What are the nutrition requirements for NSLP lunches?

All NSLP lunches must meet Federal requirements, though decisions about the specific foods to serve and the methods of preparation are made by local school food authorities. Information about the NSLP nutrition standards, along with technical assistance and guidance materials, may be found on the School Meals website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards-school-meals>.

## 5. How can children qualify for free or reduced price school lunch?

Children may be determined “categorically eligible” for free meals through participation in certain Federal Assistance Programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or based on their status as a homeless, migrant, runaway, or foster child.

Children enrolled in a federally-funded Head Start Program, or a comparable State-funded pre-kindergarten program, are also categorically eligible for free meals.

Children can also qualify for free or reduced price school meals based on household income and family size. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 and 185 percent of the Federal poverty level are eligible for reduced price meals. Schools may not charge children more than 40 cents for a reduced price lunch. To see the current Income Eligibility Guidelines, please visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines>.

### 6. What are the current reimbursement rates for participating schools?

School food authorities are reimbursed for meals based on children’s free, reduced price, or paid eligibility status. For current reimbursement rates, please visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/rates-reimbursement>. School food authorities that are certified to be in compliance with the Program meal pattern receive an extra 6 cents for each lunch served. Additionally, schools in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico are eligible for a higher reimbursement rate, due to the higher cost of food in those areas.

### 7. What types of foods do participating schools receive from USDA?

In addition to cash reimbursements, schools receive USDA Foods. States select USDA Foods for their schools from a list of foods purchased by USDA and provided through the NSLP. Schools can also receive bonus USDA Foods as they are available from surplus agricultural stocks. The variety of USDA Foods schools receive depends on available quantities and market prices. For more information about USDA Foods, please see: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/food-distribution-programs>.

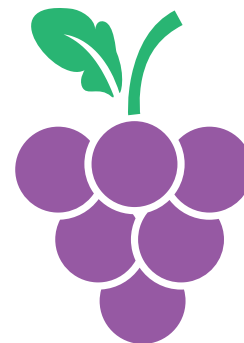
### 8. What additional support do schools receive from FNS?

Through its Team Nutrition initiative, FNS provides training and technical assistance to school nutrition professionals to enable them to prepare and serve nutritious meals that meet the Program meal pattern requirements and appeal to children. The Team Nutrition Resource Library has web-based resources available to help children and school nutrition professionals understand the link between diet and health. State and local Program operators may request free printed copies of certain Team Nutrition materials. To learn more, visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition>.

FNS is also working to increase the availability of fresh produce in schools. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program introduces children at participating low-income elementary schools to a variety of produce they otherwise might not have the opportunity to taste. In addition, through the Farm to School initiative, FNS helps school food authorities incorporate fresh, local produce into school lunch menus.

### 9. Where can I go to learn more about the NSLP?

For more information about the NSLP, please contact the State agency responsible for the administration of the Program in your State: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/school-meals-contacts>.



# UPDATED CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM MEAL PATTERNS:

# CHILD AND ADULT MEALS



USDA recently revised the CACFP meal patterns to ensure children and adults have access to healthy, balanced meals throughout the day. Under the updated child and adult meal patterns, meals served will include a greater variety of vegetables and fruit, more whole grains, and less added sugar and saturated fat. The changes made to the meal patterns are based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, scientific recommendations from the National Academy of Medicine, and stakeholder input. CACFP centers and day care homes must comply with the updated meal patterns by October 1, 2017.

## Updated Child and Adult Meal Patterns



### Greater Variety of Vegetables and Fruits

- The combined fruit and vegetable component is now a separate vegetable component and a separate fruit component; and
- Juice is limited to once per day.



### More Whole Grains

- At least one serving of grains per day must be whole grain-rich;
- Grain-based desserts no longer count towards the grain component; and
- Ounce equivalents (oz eq) are used to determine the amount of creditable grains (starting October 1, 2019).



### More Protein Options

- Meat and meat alternates may be served in place of the entire grains component at breakfast a maximum of three times per week; and
- Tofu counts as a meat alternate.



### Age Appropriate Meals

- A new age group to address the needs of older children 13 through 18 years old.



### Less Added Sugar

- Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of sugar per 6 ounces; and
- Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce.



### Making Every Sip Count

- Unflavored whole milk must be served to 1 year olds; unflavored low-fat or fat-free milk must be served to children 2 through 5 years old; and unflavored low-fat, unflavored fat-free, or flavored fat-free milk must be served to children 6 years old and older and adults;
- Non-dairy milk substitutes that are nutritionally equivalent to milk may be served in place of milk to children or adults with medical or special dietary needs; and
- Yogurt may be served in place of milk once per day for adults only.



### Additional Improvements

- Extends offer versus serve to at-risk afterschool programs; and
- Frying is not allowed as a way of preparing foods on-site.

### Breakfast Meal Patterns

	Ages 1-2		Ages 3-5		Ages 6-12 & 13-18		Adults	
	Previous	Updated	Previous	Updated	Previous	Updated	Previous	Updated
<b>Milk</b>	½ cup	½ cup	¾ cup	¾ cup	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup
<b>Vegetables, fruit, or both</b>	¼ cup	¼ cup	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup
<b>Grains</b>	½ serving	½ oz eq*	½ serving	½ oz eq*	1 serving	1 oz eq*	2 servings	2 oz eq*

\*Meat and meat alternates may be used to substitute the entire grains component a maximum of three times per week.  
Oz eq = ounce equivalents

### Lunch and Supper Meal Patterns

	Ages 1-2		Ages 3-5		Ages 6-12 & 13-18		Adults	
	Previous	Updated	Previous	Updated	Previous	Updated	Previous	Updated
<b>Milk</b>	½ cup	½ cup	¾ cup	¾ cup	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup*
<b>Meat and meat alternates</b>	1 oz	1 oz	1 ½ oz	1 ½ oz	2 oz	2 oz	2 oz	2 oz
<b>Vegetables</b>	¼ cup	⅛ cup	½ cup	¼ cup	¾ cup	½ cup	1 cup	½ cup
<b>Fruits</b>		⅛ cup		¼ cup		¼ cup		½ cup
<b>Grains</b>	½ serving	½ oz eq	½ serving	½ oz eq	1 serving	1 oz eq	2 servings	2 oz eq

\*A serving of milk is not required at supper meals for adults  
Oz eq = ounce equivalents

### Snack Meal Patterns

	Ages 1-2		Ages 3-5		Ages 6-12 & 13-18		Adults	
	Previous	Updated	Previous	Updated	Previous	Updated	Previous	Updated
<b>Milk</b>	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup
<b>Meat and meat alternates</b>	½ oz	½ oz	½ oz	½ oz	1 oz	1 oz	1 oz	1 oz
<b>Vegetables</b>	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup	¾ cup	¾ cup	½ cup	½ cup
<b>Fruit</b>		½ cup		½ cup		¾ cup		½ cup
<b>Grains</b>	½ serving	½ oz eq	½ serving	½ oz eq	1 serving	1oz eq	1 servings	1 oz eq

Select 2 of the 5 components for snack.  
Oz eq = ounce equivalents

Note: All serving sizes are minimum quantities of the food components that are required to be served.